

REMARKS

Claims 13-20 and 33-35 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ritchie (US 5857732). Ritchie does not disclose a vehicle door module including a spacing element that contacts an elongated stiffening element provided in an edge zone of an outer panel as claimed. Ritchie discloses a plastic modular door for a vehicle. A bead of adhesive 70 bonds an outer skin member 12 to an intermediate shell 16 (column 4, lines 34 to 67). As shown in Figure 5, the adhesive 70 does not contact the stiffening element identified by the Examiner on page 3 of the Final Office Action. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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